intend to sound out the State Chief Ministers for their cooperation I am also confident that the event will evoke unstinted cooperation from academic and cultural circles in India.

I am glad to inform the House that this first visit of mine to a foreign country after taking over as Prime Minister, went off very well and succeeded in achieving the objective I had in mind. I am confident that it would provide a fresh impetus to Indo-German cooperation. I am particularly happy to have had this opportunity of renewing my contact with Chancellor Kohl. Of particular significance is the desire expressed by him to me to draw India closer to the New Europe that is emerging.

MR. SPEAKER: Today we have decided to work after the Private Members Business over. I am going to adjourn the House after taking up the Matters under Rule 377 so that we have lunch time.

Now I call upon Shri Pala K.M. Mathew to raise the matter under Rule 377.

13.06 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to waive off the loans given to small cardamon growers and provide other tax exemptions to them

[*English*]

SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW (Idukki): The small cardamam growers are put to immense hardship . The spices Board is taking stringent steps to collect the loans taken by the farmers under Cardamom replanting loan schemes.

Because of previous year's cyclone and poor rains, the small farmers are not in a position to repay the loans. The loan waiver facility of the Government should be extended to these cardamam loans also.

The exemption under Agricultural Income Tax should be extended up to 4 hectares. The panchayat professional tax from Cardamom growers should be abolished. Pattas should be issued to Kuthagapattam land occupants. The auction sale of tax defaulters land under the Sales Tax Act. etc. should never be allowed to ruin cardamom farmers.

(ii) Need to set up special Development Board at Bolangir

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK (Bolangir): The three districts of Orissa, Bolangir, Kalahandi and Phulbani, are most backward regions of Orissa. There is no major industry in the area. Despite being rich in natural resources the rate of development in the field of education, industry, transport, irrigation and agriculture is very low in proportion to the State's average growth in these areas. The rate of economic growth is very low. The literacy rate is also marginal. As the tribal (SC & ST) population is higher in percentage, special efforts are needed to improve their living conditions. Though large chunk of revenue is collected from there the share of this region for departmental work is low. In order to fight the poverty, illiteracy, drought and to improve the living conditions, Special Development Board in the pattern of Saurastra and Vidarbha should be establised immediately at Bolangir.

(iii) Need to extend the benefits of abolition of ' Lease System' to the Cooperative Housing Societies

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the decision of the Government to convert 'Lease System' into 'Free Hold' is quite praise worthy. Under the new land system a fixed amount will be charged in lumpsum. The new land system on the one hand, will definitely in the present circumstances make huge funds available to